

# OUR SMALL PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

## TWO PRIZES MONTHLY.

Contributions for the Children's Enjoyment Always Welcome  
Whether Stories, Original Puzzles, Bright Historical  
or Biographical Sketches.

**THE RECONNOITER.**  
Belinda Jane was a jilted girl,  
Somewhat thin and tawny, 'tis true;  
But fast by her bosom, inside,  
Blew many things she could do.  
She could knit up small,  
Like a pocket knife,  
Or strummed out tall,  
As bright as the sun,  
And turn all her joints  
The wrong way about.  
And her shoes and gloves could never  
Break her feet.  
Which were very neat:  
Out Belinda's charms were very com-  
plished.

But pride, you know, must have a fall,  
And poor Belinda Jane  
Was left one day by her mistress' email  
Lying out in the rain,  
And since man pleased her up from the  
"My! but she's a-tell!" said she;  
And she hung her over the edge of a keg,  
To dry each waving arm and leg  
In the sunshine thoroughly,  
Just where every one had to pass.  
Who went by the kitchen door, as you  
see?

**THE TIMES.**

**The Brave Knights.**  
Some years ago, in good old times,  
When gowns were in style,  
And fairies, nymphs and midgets small  
Delighted to make mirth,  
A cruel giant vexed the land,  
And all the world decried.  
And none were found among the brave  
To conquer his fierce pride.

A king there was—there always is—  
Who had a daughter fair,  
And she was as bold as her very much,  
At last, in her despair,  
He offered her—they always should—  
The giant's eye, or drive away  
From out the neighborhood.

A knight just six inches tall  
This proclamation read,  
And had to go to the royal court  
To meet the giant and said,

"I fain would try to win the land  
Of your sweet daughter fair,  
So on the morrow I will say  
The giant, that I swear!

"Well, I'll bet a horse that before the  
evening's over, you'll say this is the best  
surprise party you was ever to

With their wondering canine eyes,  
At they passed before the familiar keg,  
Where, with wily nourishing arm and  
leg,

Belinda Jane sprawled, spider wise.

**THE ADVANCE.**

"Brothers!" cried Spot, who was, indeed,  
Always the one to lead the band,  
In all its actions, let me tell you,

His voice was trembling, yet his tall  
Statured between his legs to trail,

Forward he marched, and Spot and Dot  
And all the crew followed close;

Though they said, faintly: "What do you  
see?"

It ready is? I'm half afraid?"

"Courage," cried Spot, "and come  
straight."

Belinda Jane, with angry spite,  
Drove them from her haughty height;

Instantly glared down at them;  
And all the crew knee'd.

The brilliancy of the eye, and so  
Her troops were wasted on the foes,

Outward they came, till spot's black nose  
Was under 'em, and her painted face.

Then in Belinda's wooden bowl,  
A sudden warlike plash was born.

Silent she lay, till grown more bold,  
Spot's teeth from her shoe shot twice;

Quick at the touch her wrath arose,

And spread wide her livid life.

And spreading wide,

Each stut and rattling arm and leg,

And hurling downward from her leg,

She threw herself, with blushing eyes,

And sprung like a lioness,

Striking Spot's tender, stony pectoral

Like sudden lightning from the skies!

**THE GOOD FAIRY.**

Also for canine courage there!

Not all the puppys' hearts sustain  
Their shattered valor, nor sustain

With the red blooded fell

Over each other's backs, gall-

While flushed with wed-won victory,

Belinda Jane with grim delight,

Surveyed the outcome of the fight,

And phew'd to earth, with outstretched

The vanquished Spot's unhappy form!

—Priscilla Loomis, in the Churchman.

**THE GOOD FAIRY.**

Once upon a time, as most fairy stories begin, there lived in a little city a little girl, who was very much distressed because she could not have her own way in everything, and was very sullen, too, giving no thought to the welfare of others, and being very indifferent to the fate of others who came to live near her and sold.

"Mamma, I want a new cloak for you, it is getting cold and the snow will be here before long."

"But I cannot afford to buy you a cloak, said the mother.

"Why not?" asked the little girl, pettishly.

"Because I haven't the money to spare; besides our brood needs an overcoat."

"Wait a moment, I will go and sell my old cloak for you."

"But I cannot afford to buy you a cloak, said the mother."

"Well, I won't, and so there!"

This little girl had no sooner uttered those words than she ran across the room, and took up the old cloak.

"I will not, said the mother.

"Well, I won't, and so there!"

"Because I haven't the money to spare; besides our brood needs an overcoat."

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